

**GHANA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. HANAAN NKYI
ASAKU AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
NUCLEAR SECURITY HELD IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA, FROM 10-
14 FEBRUARY, 2020**

**Mr. Co-President,
Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Ghana delegation joins other speakers, to commend you and your bureau for the professional conduct of this Conference, so far, and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Ghana is undertaking various activities regarding the development of a strong framework for nuclear security along with nuclear safety and safeguards. These include: establishment of an independent regulatory body, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority; ratification of the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Ammendment; and active involvement of the Nuclear Security Committee headed by the National Security Coordinator in nuclear security matters in the country.

Mr. President,

Ghana is party to a number of International Legal Instruments of the Agency. At the national level, the Atomic Energy Commission Act, 2000 (Act 588) and the Nuclear Regulatory Authority Act 2015 (Act 895) are the two main legal regimes governing the country's nuclear agenda.

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority Act, (Act 895) passed by Parliament in 2015 effectively established the Nuclear Regulatory Authority as a truly independent regulatory body. The Authority regulates all institutions and individuals whose activities could lead to radiation exposure. Currently, the Authority is developing regulations on nuclear security covering: security of nuclear and other radioactive materials in use, storage and transport, as well as physical protection of nuclear material, nuclear forensics and cyber security. All these are being developed with support received from the Agency, and US-DOE.

Mr. President,

The Core of Ghana's Miniature Neutron Source reactor has been changed from high enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium fuel. The HEU fuel was successfully transported to People's Republic of China in August 2017. This project was carried out with

the sponsorship from the US Government and the Agency. All nuclear security considerations in relation to the secure transport of the HEU fuel were fully complied with under the supervision of the country's Nuclear Security Committee.

Furthermore, the national Nuclear Security Support Centre (NSSC) continues to provide training for personnel from the country's security agencies and Front-Line Officers of the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority. This has helped strengthen the nuclear security regime in the country, and the country is thankful to the Agency for the support provided in this regard. Ghana's Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) has been reviewed with support from the Agency.

Mr. President,

Ghana has not relented on its effort to promote sustainable nuclear education and training in the broader framework of capacity building and nuclear knowledge management for the nuclear industry. This is being done through Nuclear Education and Training at the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS), which is an Agency African Regional Designated Centre (RDC) for Professional Training and Higher Education in Nuclear Science and Technology, Radiation Protection and Medical Physics. To strengthen education in training in nuclear security, the school has recently introduced

modules in nuclear security at the Nuclear Safety and Security Department.

Furthermore, in our pursuit to support activities of the Agency in the sub region, Ghana hosted many regional training courses, workshops and meetings in nuclear security. Notable among these were the Train-the-trainers course for Front Line Officers, Nuclear Forensics, Nuclear Security Culture in Practice, Design Basis Threat and Human Resource Development in the Field of Nuclear Security.

Finally, Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by assuring you of Ghana's continuous support to the Agency in the discharge of its mandate in Nuclear Security. The Agency has achieved a lot in the past four years, but there is still a lot of work to be done and Ghana stands ready to support the efforts.

I thank you.